

**BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE**

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, December 9, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington and Neuwirth

Also present were: Councilor Rivers, Chief Hammick, Officer Donald Moore, Pat Braun, Philip K. Schenck, Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Councilor Hypolite and Merritt, Chief William Riley and Chief Robert Farmer

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Councilor Washington welcomed his two new subcommittee members: Councilors Joel Neuwirth and Hypolite

**POLICE**

The police department remains on budget, trending at 42% thus far with normal payroll, operating and overtime. The department is fully staffed with 49 sworn police officers and a total 61 employees.

Lieutenant Mark Samsel has announced his retirement. Lt. Samsel will retire on February 22, 2014. Chief Hammick noted that there are good candidates in the background process to fill this vacancy.

Two officers who graduated the police academy in September 2013 have completed their Field Training, Officers Kyle Sandberg and Henry Rodriguez. There are four additional officers that will graduate on December 17, 2013 from the Police Academy, Officers James Thurston, KenanVugdelic, Jason Piccaroli and David Bartley.

On November 6, 2013, the department held a promotional ceremony honoring:

- Officers Nick Aliano - 18 year veteran to the rank of Sergeant.
- Officer Christina Buenvenuto – 10 year veteran to the rank of Detective

The Mandatory Service Award was issued to:

- Sergeant James Salvatore
- Sergeant Matt Suplee

- Detective Susan Lauippa
- Sergeant Rick Bowen

Officers Robert Wilkins and Steven Wrona received Distinguished Service awards.

There were no citizens' complaints for the month of November. However, there was one complaint received in department for October 2013. A memo was sent to the Town Manager regarding the status of this complaint.

The crime rate is down 7% year to date and 6% for the month of November.

Unfortunately, on November 21, 2013, there was a homicide committed at 24 Hill Farm Road. The State Attorney's Office and State Police Major Crimes Squad was notified to assist in the investigation.

On November 22, 2013, Mr. Terrence Mitchell, 18 years of age was charged with Murder I and is being held on a \$1,000,000 bond.

The Patrol Division began its "Click It or Ticket It" campaign in mid-November. This campaign is grant funded through the State of Connecticut to assist with seat belt and DUI enforcements.

The Citizens Police Academy met for weeks 6-9 with 15 individuals to review and discuss the following topic areas:

- Emergency Services Team
- K-9 Unit
- Emergency Management Services
- Penal Code – Use of Force and Tasers

The department will not have a spring class for the Citizens Police Academy. Instead, the department will start a new program entitled, "Bloomfield Police Explorers Post". This program will be comprised of approximately 24 kids, ranging from 15-18 years of age. These youth will engage in public service, basic training, assist with community events and exposure to police duties. The School Resource officers will market and advertise this program within the middle and high schools.

Chief Hammick reported that he added 5 additional individuals to the Chaplain program:

- Rev. Deborah Blood – First Congregational Church
- Suzette Brown – Rehoboth Church of God
- Norris Brown – Rehoboth Church of God
- Pastor John Fortson – Full Gospel Faith Building Ministries
- Rev. Andre Riendeau - Wintonbury Baptist Church

Chief Hammick also gave a brief update on the national accreditation process. Chief has distributed 20 new policies within the department. He is actively pursuing this initiative very aggressively. By the beginning of 2015, the department should will underway in order to make

application for the next phase in the national accreditation process. Currently, 4 chapters have been completed and 2 chapters remaining for accreditation as policy manuals.

The police dispatch center has been completely renovated and employees are very happy.

### **Community Services Division**

- On November 21, 2013, the department participated in the Annual Turkey Distribution at the Senior Center.
- On November 25, 2013, the department also participated with youths from Bloomfield High School and staff from Bloomfield Social & Youth Services to distribute Thanksgiving baskets to families courtesy of First Congregational Church.
- The Bloomfield Crusaders is a workshop group held in collaboration with Bloomfield Social & Youth Services to engage new officers and town youth on activities within the community.
- There is a new K-9 on staff in the department and his name is "Moda".
- The new motorcycle now available to the department and will be on patrol soon.

### **Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance (BVA)**

Officer Don Moore presented statistical data from January 1, 2013 to date showing all calls for Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance (BVA).

Officer Moore presented an outline of calls received by BVA and the contracted ambulance AMR. Approximately 3,675 total calls to date (2,075 – BVA and 1,600 – AMR)

There were 150 less calls for services, 169 more AMR calls (volunteers with injuries and out of work).

Daytime shifts are the most difficult and challenging to staff.

For the month of November 2013 there were 359 calls for service.

It was noted that BVA is one of the last entities to be fully volunteered.

There is a recognition award ceremony every quarter and a gift card is given to volunteers for every shift that they work in the amount of \$10.00 to Stop & Shop or gas card. In addition, if the volunteer is a Bloomfield residents', there are eligible to receive \$1,000 tax abatement on their property.

The busiest hours and days for BVA are Tuesday, Monday and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. The BVA currently can only rely on 4-5 volunteers to keep them afloat. It was also noted that the average patient age is 64 years old.

There are currently 30 students enrolled in the new class beginning on January 7, 2013. The class is relatively inexpensive compared to other agencies and non-profits. The total cost of the class is \$750.00, however the client pays \$350.00 and the difference is budgeted through the town.

BVA has committed to not enter anyone into collections for non-payment.

BVA also conducted a food drive to support low income families involved Social & Youth services.

### **EMS Committee Update**

Mr. Pat Braun stated that the EMS committee met on October, 2013 to discuss the upcoming EMT class and marketing strategies with printed materials.

The class being held in January 2014 is currently full.

The BVA Fund has donated money to buy furniture for volunteers at the ambulance site. They also approved up to \$2,000 for EMT classes.

The next meeting of the BVA Fund will be held on December 18, 2013 at 7:15 p.m. for their holiday celebration party.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Washington to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.